

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are amended. Support for the amendments to these claims may be found in Figs. 6 and 7, for example. The claims are also amended to adopt suggestions in the Office Action. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the Examiner is requested to consider the December 5, 2008 IDS.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the March 5, 2009 personal interview. The reasons presented during the personal interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, and constitute Applicants' statement of the substance of the interview.

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification is amended with the inclusion of the attached substitute specification to obviate the objections. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 1, 2 and 4-7. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are amended as suggested by the Office Action. Regarding claim 7, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 7 are not substantial duplicates of each other. For example, claim 2 recites that the second device comprises a configuration unit configured to perform a configuration thereof in accordance with the transmitted configuration information. Claim 7 does not recite such a feature. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,905,906 to Goffinet in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0090704 to Hansen, and rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Goffinet and Hansen, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,425,019 to Tateyama. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 are amended to include a manual configuration feature in the case that configuration information is not present. For example, claim 1 recites "transmitting, when a determination is made that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storage unit, information that configuration information is not present and entering, by the second device, after the transmission of information that configuration information is not present, into a manual configuration mode." The applied references, individually or in combination, do not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, the manual configuration feature combined with the other features of the independent claims.

During the March 5, 2009 personal interview with the Examiner, Applicants' representative presented arguments based on Figs. 6 and 7, as discussed above. Examiner Cheng and Supervisory Patent Examiner Poon agreed that the applied references do not appear to disclose, or to have rendered obvious, the above-discussed features. The Examiners indicated that they would review the applied references in more detail upon receiving Applicants' written submission, and conduct an updated search.

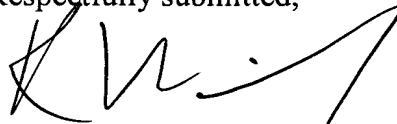
In view of the above, the combination of applied references would not have rendered obvious the combinations of features recited in claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8. Thus, the combination of applied references would not have rendered obvious the combinations of features recited in claims 3-5 for at least the respective dependence of these claims on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Marked up Copy of the Original Specification
Clean Copy of the Specification as Amended

Date: March 9, 2009

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